

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ABF-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W

----- 101836

R 111250Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3853

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 2864

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF UNRWA XF

SUBJECT: UNRWA FINANCING

REF: BEIRUT 4670 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF MET APR 11 WITH UNRWA COMGEN RENNIE WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM EUROPE. RENNIE SAID HE BROUGHT NO RPT NO GOOD NEWS RE ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGENCY AS RESULT HIS CONTACTS IN EUROPE. HE MET, AS WE PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, WITH UNSYG IN ROME. UNSYG, ACCORDING TO RENNIE, IS PROCEEDING WITH FURTHER APPEAL FOR ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA ON BASIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY UNRWA ADVISORY COMMISSION (ADCOM) ON MAR 21, BUT NEITHER SYG NOR RENNIE EXPECT THIS APPEAL PER SE TO PRODUCE RESULTS.

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2. COMGEN WAS INTERESTED IN VIEWS OF JORDANIAN PM RIFAI, AS REPORTED BY EMBASSY AMMAN, AND INDICATED HE PLANNED HAVE JOHN TANNER, DIR OF UNRWA OPERATIONS, JORDAN SEEK INFORMATION RE CONSIDERATION OF UNRWA'S FINANCIAL PLIGHT AT LATE-MARCH ARAB FONMINS CONF. RENNIE ALSO SAID HE ATTEMPTING PHONE UNDP REP IN SAUDI ARABIA TO DISCUSS PROGRESS IN OBTAINING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM SAG, BUT INDICATED THAT POST-ASSASSINATION CONFUSION AND ABSENCE FROM COUNTRY OF UNDP REP'S PRIME CONTACT IN SAG IS PROBABLY DELAYING PROGRESS.

3. WHEN ASKED PRECISELY WHAT WOULD BE NEEDED FOR COMGEN TO POSTPONE PROJECTED RATIONS REDUCTIONS EFFECTIVE MAY 1, COMGEN REPLIED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO BE "CONFIDENT" THAT ADDITIONAL ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS OF NOT LESS THAN DOLS 20 MILLION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE. HE STATED THAT MONEY ITSELF NEED NOT BE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR AGENCY TO LIMP ALONG AT PRESENT LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IF HE COULD BE CERTAIN OF OBTAINING ADDITIONAL FUNDS AND THEREBY INSURING AGENCY OPERATIONS WOULD NOT RPT NOT COME TO GRINDING HALT LATER IN YEAR WHEN PRESENT FUNDS ARE EXHAUSTED.

4. ON SUBJECT OF FURTHER ADCOM MEETING AT THIS TIME, COMGEN CONFIDED HE WOULD BE "HORRIFIED" AT PROSPECT. SAYING THAT MAR 21 ADCOM SESSION WAS ONE OF MOST "FEEBLE" HE HAD EVER SEEN, COMGEN NOTED THAT, IN HIS CLOSING REMARKS TO ADCOM, HE HAD CAREFULLY AVOIDED COMMITMENT TO RECONVENE ADCOM BEFORE ORDERING MAY 1 REDUCTIONS, ASSUMING ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS NOT FORTHCOMING. COMGEN HAS NO RPT NO INTENTION AT THIS TIME OF CALLING FOR ADCOM MEETING BEFORE INSTITUTING REDUCTIONS, SHOULD CIRCUMSTANCES COMPELL HIM TO MAKE THEM MAY 1. HE WILL, AS HE HAS PROMISED, INFORM ARAB HOST GOVTS, PRIOR TO INTRODUCTION OF REDUCTIONS.
GODLEY

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